

Claims

- [c1] A household clothes washer for use in a home environment having a floor for supporting the household clothes washer, comprising:
- a cabinet;
 - a wash basket mounted within the cabinet for rotational motion;
 - a foot extending from the cabinet for supporting the cabinet on the floor;
 - and
 - a boot mounted to the foot and having multiple operational conditions comprising an isolating condition, where the boot substantially isolates the floor from forces generated by the rotation of the basket and acting through the foot, and a non-isolating condition, where the boot substantially passes the forces through the foot and into the floor.
- [c2] The household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein a predetermined range of motion defines the operational condition of the boot.
- [c3] The household clothes washer according to claim 2, wherein the boot is in the non-isolating condition when the magnitude of the forces acting on the washer as the basket rotates about a horizontal axis is such that the top of the cabinet moves through an arc no greater than 2 inches.
- [c4] The household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein the boot is operable between a natural state and a collapsed state, with the natural state corresponding to the isolating operational condition and the collapsed state corresponding to the non-isolating condition.
- [c5] The household clothes washer according to claim 4, wherein the boot comprises a snubber spaced above the floor when the boot is in the natural

state and compressed against the floor when the boot is in the compressed state.

- [c6] The household clothes washer according to claim 5, wherein the boot comprises a sole with a bottom surface for contacting the floor, and an upper extending from the sole and defining a foot recess in which the foot is received to mount the boot to the foot.
- [c7] The household clothes washer according to claim 6, wherein the sole comprises a snubber recess that opens onto the bottom surface, with the snubber extending into the recess.
- [c8] The household clothes washer according to claim 7, and further comprising a stiffener in the sole.
- [c9] The household clothes washer according to claim 8, wherein the stiffener circumscribes the snubber recess.
- [c10] The household clothes washer according to claim 9, wherein the upper terminates in a resilient shoulder defining a mouth for the foot recess, with the mouth having a portion smaller than the foot such that when the foot passes through the mouth, the resilient shoulder is initially deflected and when the foot is received in the recess, the resilient shoulder overlies a portion of the foot to aid in mounting the boot to the foot.
- [c11] The household clothes washer according to claim 10, and further comprising a retaining element for retaining foot beneath the shoulder.
- [c12] The household clothes washer according to claim 11, wherein the retaining element is a split element substantially circumscribing the mouth.
- [c13] The household clothes washer according to claim 12, and further

comprising a bearing plate positioned within the foot recess and supporting the foot relative to the boot when the foot is received within the foot recess.

[c14] The household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein the boot comprises a snubber spaced above the floor when the boot is in the isolating condition and compressed against the floor when the boot is in the non-isolating condition.

[c15] The household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein the boot comprises a sole with a bottom surface for contacting the floor, and an upper extending from the sole and defining a foot recess in which the foot is received to mount the boot to the foot.

[c16] The household clothes washer according to claim 15, and further comprising a stiffener in the sole.

[c17] The household clothes washer according to claim 15, and further comprising a retaining element for helping to retain the foot in the upper.

[c18] The household clothes washer according to claim 15, and further comprising a bearing plate positioned within the foot recess and supporting the foot relative to the boot when the foot is received within the foot recess.

[c19] The household clothes washer according to claim 1, wherein the boot is made from a resilient material.

[c20] The household clothes washer according to claim 19, wherein the basket rotates about a horizontal axis.

[c21] A household appliance for use in a home environment having a floor for supporting the household appliance, comprising:
a cabinet;

a vibration generator located within the cabinet;
a foot extending from the cabinet for supporting the cabinet on the floor;
and
a boot mounted to the foot and having multiple operational conditions comprising an isolating condition, where the boot substantially isolates the floor from forces generated by the rotation of the basket and acting through the foot, and a non-isolating condition, where the boot substantially passes the forces through the foot and into the floor.

[c22] The household appliance according to claim 21, wherein the boot comprises a sole with a bottom surface for contacting the floor, and an upper extending from the sole and defining a foot recess in which the foot is received to mount the boot to the foot.

[c23] The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein the boot comprises a snubber extending from the sole and spaced above the floor when the boot is in the isolating condition and compressed against the floor when the boot is in the compressed state.

[c24] The household appliance according to claim 22, and further comprising a stiffener in the sole.

[c25] The household appliance according to claim 22, and further comprising a retaining element for retaining the foot in the upper.

[c26] The household appliance according to claim 25, wherein the retaining element is a split element substantially circumscribing the upper.

[c27] The household appliance according to claim 22, and further comprising a bearing plate positioned within the foot recess and supporting the foot

relative to the boot when the foot is received within the foot recess.

[c28] The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein a predetermined range of motion defines the operational condition of the boot.

[c29] The household appliance according to claim 28, wherein the boot is in the non-isolating condition when the magnitude of the forces acting on the washer as the basket rotates about a horizontal axis is such that the top of the cabinet moves through an arc no greater than 2 inches.